



Nebraska Weather and Crops

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

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Agricultural Summary: For the week ending September 24, 2006, wet conditions were replenishing soil moisture profiles but prolonging the beginning of fall harvest in most counties of the state, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistic Service, Nebraska Field Office. Cool, damp conditions have slowed movement of crops toward maturity which has kept a majority of producers out of the fields. In the west, producers were reseeding some winter wheat due to recent rains.

Weather Summary: Temperatures last week averaged 8 degrees below normal across the state. A light frost was recorded in many western counties. All districts averaged at least a half inch of precipitation with over one inch common in the north and east. Four of the eight districts are above average precipitation since April 1.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable: Nebraska, Week Ending September 24, 2006

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Aver-Age
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	7	12	15	18
Short	17	25	43	33
Adequate	68	56	41	47
Surplus	8	7	1	2
Subsoil				
Very Short	24	28	25	37
Short	30	34	34	34
Adequate	45	38	41	29
Surplus	1	0	0	0
Days Suitable	3.6	4.8	6.6	5.3

Field Crops Report: Corn conditions improved and rated 7 percent very poor, 10 poor, 22 fair, 45 good, and 16 excellent. Irrigated fields rated 82 percent good or excellent, near last year's 81, while dryland fields rated 27, behind last year's 39. Seventy-three percent was mature, above last year's 68 and 64 average. Corn harvested was at 6 percent, behind last year's 9 and 8 average.

Soybean conditions rated 3 percent very poor, 10 poor, 27 fair, 44 good, and 16 excellent, above last year. Ninety-five percent had turned color, behind last year's 99 and near the 96 average. Seventy percent were dropping leaves, well below last year's 88 but near the 72 average. Soybeans harvested was 4 percent complete, one week behind last year's 17 and 10 average.

Alfalfa conditions rated 9 percent very poor, 14 poor, 36 fair, 35 good, and 6 excellent, near last year. Fourth cutting alfalfa increased to 73 percent complete, ahead of last year's 70 and 60 average. Wet conditions made hay harvest difficult.

Sorghum conditions rated 3 percent very poor, 10 poor, 32 fair, 41 good, and 14 excellent, below last year. Fifty-five percent was mature, behind last year's 60 but ahead of the average of 51.

Sorghum harvested was 3 percent complete, near last year's 4 but behind the 6 average.

Nearly all of the dry beans had turned color. Sixty-eight percent were dropping leaves, well behind last year's 91 and average of 78. Dry beans harvested were 26 percent complete, one week behind last year's 46 and average of 41. Dry bean conditions rated 0 percent very poor, 6 poor, 32 fair, 55 good, and 7 excellent.

Producers had 57 percent of the winter wheat seeded, behind last year's 66 and 65 average. Eighteen percent were emerged, well behind last year's 31 and 32 average.

Proso millet was 33 percent harvested, nearly two weeks behind last year's 69 and 60 average.

Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending September 24, 2006

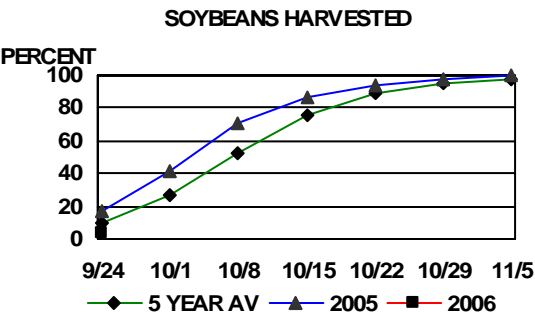
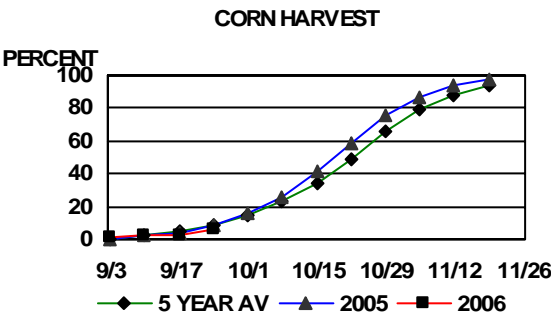
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Aver-Age
<i>Percent</i>				
Alfalfa 4 th Cutting	73	50	70	60
Corn Mature	73	40	68	64
Corn Harvested	6	3	9	8
Dry Beans Dropping Leaves	68	59	91	78
Dry Beans Harvested	26	24	46	41
Proso Millet Harvested	33	25	69	60
Sorghum Mature	55	22	60	51
Sorghum Harvested	3	0	4	6
Soybeans Turning Color	95	85	99	96
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	70	35	88	72
Soybeans Harvested	4	0	17	10
Winter Wheat Seeded	57	32	66	65
Winter Wheat Emerged	18	5	31	32

Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending September 24, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-Lent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	9	14	36	35	6
Corn	7	10	22	45	16
Dry Beans	0	6	32	55	7
Sorghum	3	10	32	41	14
Soybeans	3	10	27	44	16

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range conditions continued to improve and rated 21 percent very poor, 25 poor, 35 fair, 17 good, and 2 excellent.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Regional Climate Center. County comments can be found at:
http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/cmts_cur.htm



Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.66	1.32	1.30	.99	1.38	1.20	.67	1.34
Total since April 1	9.90	14.73	19.06	16.44	22.22	13.83	18.45	23.37
Normal since April 1	12.79	16.23	18.83	17.88	20.45	15.30	17.67	21.43
Total as % of normal	78%	90%	101%	91%	108%	90%	104%	108%

Station		Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15		
		Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal
		High	Low					
NW	Alliance	69	31	48	-10	35	2513	2576
	Scottsbluff	75	32	51	-8	47	2709	2569
	Sidney	74	34	50	-9	40	2609	2652
NC	Ainsworth	65	33	49	-12	24	2743	2891
	Arthur	72	30	49	-11	33	2648	2826
	O'Neill	66	32	50	-11	28	2760	2943
NE	Concord	65	34	52	-10	33	2831	3023
	Elgin	65	36	51	-11	28	2806	2987
	West Point	67	35	53	-10	41	2912	3156
C	Grand Island	71	37	54	-7	54	3016	2943
	Lexington	73	31	53	-8	52	3044	2892
	Ord	67	33	52	-10	36	2901	2930
EC	Central City	71	37	54	-8	54	3010	2997
	Lincoln	71	42	57	-7	59	3273	3243
	Mead	72	39	56	-8	55	3034	3233
SW	Champion	79	29	51	-9	48	2824	2838
	Dickens	72	31	51	-10	43	2855	2859
	McCook	77	31	55	-6	62	3052	2877
SC	Minden	73	33	54	-7	57	3009	2911
	Red Cloud	75	34	56	-6	61	3174	2974
	Smithfield	73	32	54	-8	56	2954	2898
SE	Beatrice	72	41	56	-7	60	3127	3243
	Clay Center	72	34	54	-8	56	2945	2973
	Nemaha	75	42	58	-6	64	3330	3253

Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center and Nebraska State Climate Office